

The Wobbly Oscillator



Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

September 2020 Volume 50 Number 9



Sept Meeting at 6:30

Harriet Keeler Picnic Area

From The Prez

September Meeting at the Harriet Keeler Picnic Area

6:30 Start Time

Last month we voted to have one more outdoor meeting. We will hold our September meeting at the Harriet Keeler Picnic Area on Tuesday, September 8th. Please note the meeting will begin at **6:30 PM** to allow us enough daylight. As we have been doing, we will meet at the picnic tables directly west of the closed pavilion. Please bring a lawn chair so we can keep a safe distance between ourselves and be comfortable.

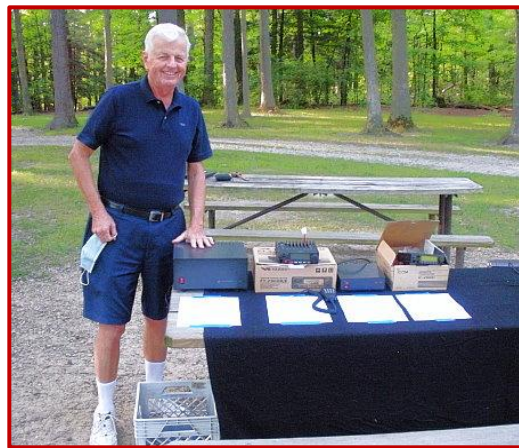
Ron, K8RJH, will have a presentation on how to build a 9:1 balun for end fed antennas. This promises to be a good one. End fed antennas have really become a hot topic as of late. They are easy to put up and easy to conceal. Many hams can get away using an end fed in HOA restricted communities. (I know one that does; but he will remain nameless as not to blow his cover.) Some "experts" consider an end fed to be a compromise, with mediocre performance at best. Ron disagrees. He has been explaining the science to me and has me convinced a properly designed and built end fed that is correctly tuned will yield results comparable to a good dipole. I am planning to put all my eggs in the end fed basket and use one for the upcoming November Sweepstakes contest.



Ron's, K8RJH, excitement transmitted to the group when he explained his test method for baluns.



(L) The group spread out staying safe and comfortable enjoying the beautiful weather at the August meeting.



(R) Would you buy a used radio from this man? Of course you would. Bob, K8RGI, was selling donated equipment at bargain prices.

Future Meetings

Those not present at the August meeting missed the discussion about future meeting venues. The weather and lack of daylight pretty much rule out any more outdoor meetings. The Busch community rooms will be closed at least until the end of the year. Eddie, KD8FTS, who arranges the dinner meetings for another club, noted at the meeting finding a restaurant that will allow a group of our size is virtually impossible, at least in Cuyahoga County. We can go back to the on the air meetings using the CARS repeater. Many members liked the idea of the on the air meetings, but they were sparsely attended. Many radio clubs and other organizations are resorting to Zoom for their meetings. Zoom has advantages and disadvantages; one disadvantage is some members do not have the capability to use Zoom. One more possibility is to find a public location that will allow a group of our size to meet if we follow certain requirements.

Please consider all the options and bring you opinions and ideas to the September meeting. We can discuss the issue and make plans for future meetings.

73, Toby, WT8O



Eddie, KD8FTS, seldom passes up a chance to walk on the lighter side.

September Birthdays

Bob Robbins, K8RGI	9/4/45
Dennis Rabbitts, KD8APY	9/11/49
James Chaffin, KESMQL	9/17
Jeff Bolek, KD8GIR	9/21/50

**Minutes of the
CUYAHOGA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
August 11, 2020**

Because of the coronavirus, the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society held its August, 2020 meeting in the Brecksville Reservation of the Metroparks. We were not allowed in the pavilion, so we held the meeting on picnic tables near-by.

CALLED TO ORDER---The meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALEGENCE---Those present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

JULY MINUTES---The July minutes were approved as published in the *Wobbly Oscillator*.

NEW MEMBER---The club voted in a new member; Matt Perlman, KE8OZU.

SCHOLARSHIP THANK-YOU---Toby, WT8O, read a thank-you letter from Tyler Robbins, winner of our 2020 scholarship award. Tyler is the Grandson of Bob Robbins, K8RGL.

ROSTER UP-DATE---Toby, WT8O, urged everyone to keep the roster updated. If you move or make any other changes to your contact information Toby asked that you let Bob Check, W8GC, know as soon as practical so that he may make the appropriate changes to our roster.

VE-TESTING---Metro, W8MET, reported that CARS will be providing VE testing on Sunday, September 13th.

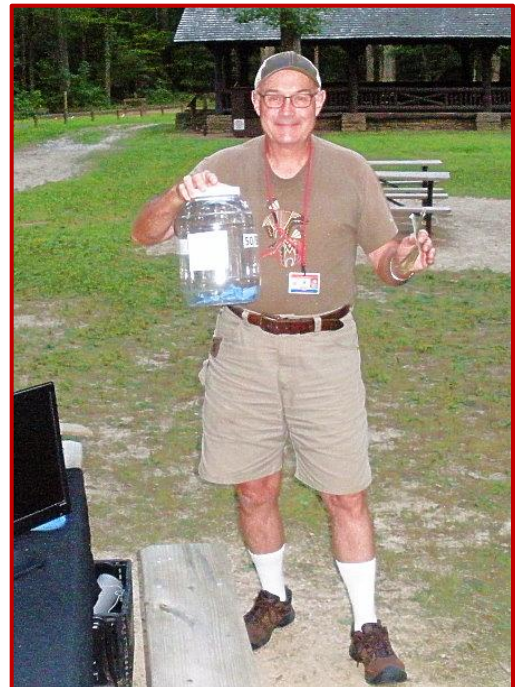
SEPTEMBER MEETING---It was decided that since the Busch Community room will not be available to us for the rest of the year, we would hold our September meeting in the Brecksville Reservation of the Metroparks. Since it is getting darker sooner as we go later into the Fall Season, we decided to start our September meeting at 6:30 P.M. instead of our usual time. In the event of rain, we will stay in our cars and communicate on 146.520 MHz simplex.

50/50 DRAWING---The 50/50 drawing was won by Ron Hollas, K8RJH. The amount was \$17.00.

ADJOURNMENT---The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Ed Stevens, WB8ROK
Secretary

After the meeting Ron Hollas, K8RJH, gave a talk and demonstration regarding testing of baluns.



Andy, KD8SCV, always ready to help the club, cheerfully sold 50/50 tickets at the August meeting,

Peep from the Veep
Mark, WJ8WM

There was a discussion this month at our meeting regarding the print vs. the digital editions of *QST* magazine. Toby made the comment he prefers the print edition and I agree wholeheartedly. He and I had a similar discussion with the *WO*.

For me, it is MUCH easier to read a print document than to read from the computer. I like holding it in my hand. I like folding the page over when I pause and then the next time, I pick it up start right where I left off.

I grew up with magazines and catalogs. There was always a Sears catalog in the house. At Christmas time the wish books came! My sister and I would mark the pages with items we wanted from Santa. We would change our minds fifty times much to our mother's chagrin before deciding on our lists.

Then Sears started publishing the specialty catalogs. I would read the tool catalog from cover to cover when it arrived. I would mark the tools I "needed" and would purchase them when I saved the money. I remember having a disagreement with a high school shop teacher and submitting the Sears catalog to support my case.

I have subscribed to many different magazines throughout my life depending on my interests at the time. I also read books on those subjects but, magazines always seem timelier. I still receive about ten magazines a month now.

The Sears Tool Catalog has disappeared along with the store. Another company has filled the void. Harbor Freight Tools has been around for decades. They started selling tools as a mail order catalog company out of California. They sold inexpensive tools of dubious quality.

They have through the years opened brick and mortar stores across the nation including several stores in our area. The tools have become better quality. In fact, many are of comparable quality to the name brand tools. When the monthly catalog would arrive, again I would mark the tools I "needed" and head of to Parma Heights to acquire them.

Recently, someone in the company decided to stop the printed catalog. It's all online starting in August. I have NO interest in viewing their catalog online. There is no way to mark the tools on my computer screen, I can't or should I say will not walk around the store with a computer under my arm. I called corporate and provided them my opinion of this foolishness. I may continue to shop there when I need a particular item, however, I think the days of the monthly shopping cart full of goodies is gone.

I anxiously await seeing how the rest of the loyal Harbor Freight shoppers react.

September
Net Sked

SEP	2	K8RJH
SEP	9	WT8O
SEP	16	N8OWS
SEP	27	KD8OUE
SEP	30	AC8NW

Nets are run every Wednesday at
9:00 PM on 146.820 (PL 110.9)

September is a Great Time for Antenna Maintenance

Ron, K8RJH

After a full season (or more) of QSO's , Contests and NETs, the month of September is a great time for your station's antenna maintenance before the change of season makes it difficult for this basic task. Whether your antenna system is outside or attic, HF or VHF/UHF, or any of these combinations, basic antenna inspections now will give you a chance to perform timely cleanings and repairs well before inclement weather arrives.

Most of us are aware of the usual, but important, physical items to check with any antenna system. That typically would include an annual inspection of:

- All Cablings (Coax, Power and Rotator)
- Grounding System for Bonding and Corrosion
- Antenna Elements, Traps and Chokes
- Attachment Brackets and Insulators
- Supporting Structures, Guys and Anchors
- System Angle and Vertical Alignment of Antenna Structures
- Proper Operation of Rotators and Tuners

It is always and highly recommended that one would document these inspections by keeping a photographic and written annual report log of what was inspected, its condition and notes of any corrective action that has been taken restore the antenna system to a safe and effective designed performance.

Next CARS Meeting

Tuesday, September 8th
6:30 PM

Harriet Keeler Picnic Area
Brecksville Reservation

Program

DIY 9:1 End Fed Balun



Ron, K8RJH, with the 9:1 balun he will show how to build at the September meeting connecting it to the long wire of his end fed antenna. See close-up view of balun next page.

These inspections generally cover the physical and relatively easy to spot items that may be obvious to any amateur radio operator. However, to have assurance that these inspections have identified all potential items requiring attention, these inspections should also include reference measurements on how well the system is performing electrically. This data can confirm that there has been no performance degradation since the last inspection and give clues to what items of the antenna system may need further review.

One of the best way for this electrical inspection would be in the use of an antenna analyzer, which many low cost and full featured models exist for the amateur community that provide highly complex measurements presented in an easy to reference chart or tabular report.

Some of the key measurements of interest that antenna analyzers perform include reporting on:

- Antenna electrical parameters: SWR, impedance (resistance + reactance), capacitance, inductance, trap inductors and capacitors
- Determine and confirm optimum settings for tuning stubs: SWR, approximate Q, resonant frequency, bandwidth, and impedance are maintained
- Transmission Balun RF performance and device loss
- Verify coax transmission line (Changes in SWR, length, velocity factor, approximate Q and loss, resonant frequency, and impedance), and
- Ground loss characteristics

These measurements are a great baseline for any amateur, whether operating HF or 2 Meters, to confirm that your antenna system is operating optimally into the next year. The benefits will be in your inspection report documenting how well your station is maintained and useful for identifying any corrective issues before they become significant problems.

Finally, another good suggestion before the winter weather arrives is also to include testing your home QTH internet connection quality and speed in your annual station maintenance log!



Close-up of the balun from the previous page connected for testing and tuning purposes sans the enclosure.

CARS Repeaters

146.820 (-) PL Tone 110.9

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

Allstar Node 47067

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

443.825 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.82 Repeater

Brecksville

444.75 (+) Receive PL Tone 131.8

449.75 Transmit

Stand-alone Not Linked

Shaker Hts.



CARS,

Thank you so much for the scholarship! The money will definitely help me at college next year. I plan on using the scholarship to pay for my books, as well as go towards my tuition. I can't wait to start studying astrophysics next year, and starting the journey to get my Ph.D.

Thanks again,
Tyler Robbins

VE Session Correction

The CARS July VE session was incorrectly reported as the June VE session in the August *Wobbly Oscillator*. The July VE session was held July 12th, 2020.

VE Session

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, September 13th, at 9:00 AM. The location will be in Westlake at The Masonic Lodge # 489, 29500 Center Ridge Rd. Visit the CARS website, www.@cars.org, or contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net. As always, walk-ins are welcome.



Can you spot the bad balun? Ron will give the answer and an explanation during his presentation at the September meeting

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC

Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N

Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK

Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O

Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H

Elected 5/8/18

Ron Borkey, K8VJG

Elected 5/14/19

For Sale

Astron RS-4 - 4A Linear Power Supply
4A (3A Continuous) 3-3/4" x 6-1/2" x 9"

Good Condition
Asking \$25 (\$59.00 new)

Contact Bob Check, W8GC
bob@2cls.com
216-524-1750



**"THERE ARE ONLY THREE SPORTS: BULLFIGHTING, MOTOR RACING, AND MOUNTAINEERING;
ALL THE REST ARE MERELY GAMES."**

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

RadioSport

Contests

Sep. 5, 0000 – Sep. 6, 2359 **All Asian DX Contest, Phone** 3.5 - 28 Ph www.iarl.org/English
Exchange: RS, 2-digit age

Sep. 12, 1800–Sep. 14, 0300 **ARRL September VHF Contest** 50+ CW Ph Dig www.arrl.org/september-vhf
Exchange: 4-char grid square

Sep. 12, 1400 – 2200 **Ohio State Parks on the Air** 3.5 – 28 Ph ospota.org
Exchange: Park abbreviation or “OH” or SPC (State, Province, DXCC Entity)

Sep. 19, 1600 – 2300 **Wisconsin Parks on the Air** 3.5 – 144 Ph wipota.org
Exchange: WI park abbreviation or SPC

Special Events Stations

Sep. 2 – Sep. 17, 1800 - 2359 **W2V** Ansonia, CT **75th Anniversary of the Victory Over Japan Ending World War II** 21.345 14.345 7.245 3.845 QSL www.grz.com/db/w3v

Sep. 9 – Sep. 18, 0000 – 2359 **K4D** Carrabelle, FL **Dog Island IOTA DXpedition NA-085 K4D**
14.275 14.074 7.190 7.074 QSL k5ten@aol.com

Sep. 12, 1600 – 2300 **NI6IW** San Diego, CA **Commissioning of the USS Midway September 1945**
14.320 7.250; 14.070 (PSK31) QSL USS *Midway* Museum Ship (COMEDTRA), 910 N. Harbor Dr.,
San Diego, CA 92101

Sep. 12 – Sep. 20, 0000-2359 **W6JBT** San Bernardino, CA **21st Annual Route 66 On the Air**
28.466 7.266 3.866 Certificate & QSL www.w6jbt.org

Sep. 12 – 22 0000-2359 **K4MIA** Loxahatchee, FL **National POW MIA Recognition Day** 28.400
18.150 14.265 7.195 (K4MIA/5 K4MIA/7 K4MIA/8 operational some days) QSL www.grz.com/db/k4mia

Sep. 16 – Sep. 18, 0000-0000 **W8AL** Canton, OH **National Football League Centennial Celebration**
14.300 14.030 7.250 7.0300 3.950 3.530 FT8 Certificate www.w8al.org

Sampling from September, 2020 QST - Pg. 71, 82 and 83. See QST for many more events.

All times in GMT ZULU time

RadioSport

QSO Parties

Sep. 5, 1300 – Sep. 6, 0400 **Colorado QSO Party** 1.8 – UHF CW Ph Dig ppraa.org/coqp
Exchange: Name, CO county or SPC (State, Province, DXCC Entity)

Sep. 6, 1800 – Sep. 7, 0300 **Tennessee QSO Party** 1.8 – UHF CW Ph Dig tnqp.org/rules
Exchange: RS(T), TN county or SPC

Sep. 12, 1400 – Sep. 13, 2000 **Texas QSO Party** 1.8 – UHF CW Ph Dig www.txqp.net
Exchange: RS(T), TX county or SPC

Sep. 12, 1500 – Sep. 13, 0300 **Alabama QSO Party** 3.5 – 28 CW Ph alabamagsoparty.org
Exchange: RS(T), AL county or SPC

Sep. 17, 1930 – 2059 **BCC QSO Party** 3.5 CW Ph Dig bavarian-contest-club.de/2326
Exchange: RS(T), T-shirt size

Sep. 19, 1400 – Sep. 20, 0200 **Iowa QSO Party** 1.8 – UHF CW Ph Dig www.w0yl.com/IAQP
Exchange: RS(T), IA county or SPC

Sep. 19, 0000 – 2359 **FOC QSO Party** 1.8 – VHF CW g4foc.org/qsoparty
Exchange: RS(T), name, mbr (if any)

Sep. 19, 0000 – Sep. 20, 2359 **Collegiate QSO Party** 1.80 – UHF CW Ph Dig collegiateqsoparty.com
Exchange: School name, RS(T), operating class

Sep. 19, 1600 – Sep. 20, 0359 **New Jersey QSO Party** 3.5 – 28 CW Ph Dig k2td-bcrc.org/njqp
Exchange: RS(T), NJ county or SPC

Sep. 19, 1600 – Sep. 20, 2200 **New Hampshire QSO Party** 1.8 – UHF CW PH Dig w1wqm.org/nhqso
Exchange: RS(T), NH county or SPC

Sep. 26, 1200 – Sep. 27, 1200 **Maine QSO Party** 1.8 – 28 CW Ph ws1sm.com/MEQP.html
Exchange: RS(T), ME county or SPC

Sampling from September, 2020 QST - Pg. 71, 82 and 83. See QST for many more events.

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CARS 2020 Officers & Committees

Audit

WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video

AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison

WJ8WM **

Awards

W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic

WJ8WM **, K8ARP

Club Photographer

N8OWS **

Field Day

WT8O **, WJ8WM, K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8SCV,
AC8NW, AC8TN, K8RJH, N8BBB food

50/50

KD8SCV

Hamvention Bus

KD8FTS **

License classes

KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative

KD8SCV

Membership

WT8O ** W8GC

NET

WT8O **

Newsletter

WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings

KD8QBB ** KD8BAL

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services

K8ARP ** KD8FTS

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic

K8RJH ** pop, ?? ** coffee,
NW8X ** Donuts

Scholarship

W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, WB8ROK, WT8O

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO,
K8RJH, K8MD, KB8DTC

VE Exams

Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2020 Officers

PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mark Moro, WJ8WM 216-661-0342

SECRETARY

Ed Stevens, WB8ROK 216-267-5473
Alternate Secretary:

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750
Alternate Treasurer: Bob Robbins, K8RGI

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman

Andy Evridge KD8SCV 440-886-0723
Alternate Chairman: Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE

even year executive board 2 year term
K8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term
KD8SCV, K8ARP, K8RJH

License trustee

K8ZFR
WT8O

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC



June 30, 2020